

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 152176

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 7989, ACTION SECSTATE DATED 6/25/74.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 07989

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, POR, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH WISH TO EXCHANGE POLICY ASSESSMENT ON
PORTUGAL

REF: LISBON 2617

1. WIGGIN ASKED POLITICAL COUNSELOR TO CALL JUNE 24 TO
DISCUSS THE OUTLOOK FOR PORTUGAL. STRESSING THAT HE WAS
NOT ACTING ON MINISTERIAL INSTRUCTIONS, WIGGIN INQUIRED
WHETHER US REP
HAD PREPARED A POLICY ASSESSMENT OF THE
PROSPECTS FOR PORTUGAL, AND IF SO WHETHER WE WOULD BE
PREPSNED TO SHARE BIR THINKING WITH THE BRITISH.

2. WIGGIN SAID THE UK IS STILL "GROPING" IN WEIGHING UP
THE PROSPECTS FOR PORTUGAL. BROADLY SPEAKING, BRITISH
MINISTERS HOPE TO SEES DEMOCRATIC AND STABLE PORTUGAL,
NOT NECESSARILY SOCIALIST, EMERGE IN DUE COURSE. THEY
WANT TO SEE ALL MODERATE AND DEMOCRATIC ELEMENTS
STRENGTHENED IN PORTUGAL. WIGGIN INDICATED THAT THE FCO
IS SOMEWHAT UNEASY THAT THE COLONELS MAY PERPETUATE
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THEMSELVES A LA GREECE. WIGGIN COMMENTED THAT THE

BRITISH BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE ARMY TO GET "BACK TO THEIR BARRACKS" AS SOON AS FEASIBLE. CONCLUDING, HE SAID THAT THE UK WAS DOING ALL IT COULD TO ENCOURAGE DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN PORTUGAL WHILE AVOIDING INTERFERENCE IN THE AFFAIRS OF THAT COUNTRY.

3. WIGGIN ASKED WHERE DOES THE US STAND? HOW DO WE SEE THE SITUATION? WHAT CAN THE UK AND US JOINTLY DO TO ENCOURAGE A RETURN WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS? HE INSISTED THAT THE BRITISH HAVE NO MISGIVINGS ABOUT US POLICY. THE BRITISH, HE SAID, WOULD WELCOME DISCUSSIONS WITH THE US TO ENSURE THAT BOTH OF US ARE PROCEEDING ON BROADLY THE SAME LINES OF POLICY.

4. COMMENT: BELIEVE THERE COULD BE CONSIDERABLE ADVANTAGE TO US IN EXCHANGING INFORMATION AND CONCEPTS WITH BRITISH GIVEN LABOR PARTY'S (A) CLOSE CONTACTS OF LONG DURATION WITH LEADERS OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST MOVEMENT IN PORTUGAL; (B) KEEN INTEREST IN INFLUENCING PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT ALONG DEMOCRATIC LINES; (C) CLOSE RELATIONS WITH ANGLOPHONE AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHO ARE TRYING FOR NEGOTIATED SOLUTIONS TO PORTUGAL'S AFRICAN PROBLEMS. FURTHER RECOMMEND THAT IF EMBASSY LISBON CONCURS DEPT AUTHORIZE US TO BEGIN EXCHANGE HERE BY GIVING BRITISH OUTLINE OF EMBASSY LISBON'S EXCELLENT ANALYSIS OF PORTUGUESE POWER STRUCTURE (REFTEL). END COMMENT
ANNENBER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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